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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Group No.: 3641

Examiner: A. B. Felton

Serial No.: 10/067,119

Filing Date: 04 February 2002

Title: VEHICULAR OCCUPANT RESTRAINT

RESPONSE A

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This application has been reconsidered carefully in light of the Office Action dated as mailed on 20 March 2003. A careful reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This response is timely filed as it is filed within the one (1) month shortened statutory period provided for responding to the outstanding Office Action.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

01 April 2003
01 April 2003
Date

Signature
Nick C. Bates

Serial No.: 10/067,119

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Claims 1-26 remain in the application.

Restriction has been required because the application has been alleged to contain claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-24, drawn to an igniter and occupant restraint device, classified in class 149, subclass 22; and
- II. Claims 24-26, drawn to a method of generating gas for an occupant restraint device, classified in class 280, subclass 736.

The invention of Group I (i.e., claims 1-24, drawn to an igniter and occupant restraint device) is elected without traverse.

The Action further has required the election of a single disclosed species based on the igniter composition (i.e., Applicant has been required to elect one of the fuel, oxidizer and additional fuel material) for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Action still further has required the election of a single disclosed species based on the type of occupant restraint device (i.e., Applicant has been required to elect if the device is an airbag device, a seat-belt pretensioner or a micro-gas generator) for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Serial No.: 10/067,119

Currently, claims 1, 11, and 25 have been identified as appearing to be generic.

In response thereto, the following elections are hereby made:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| fuel | - | Applicant elects boron |
| oxidizer | - | Applicant elects the alkali metal nitrate, potassium nitrate |
| additional fuel | - | Applicant elects guanidine nitrate |
| device | - | Applicant elects a micro-gas generator |

Of the above-elected claims (i.e., claims 1-24), at least claims 1-13 and 15-24 are believed to be readable thereon, with at least claims 1 and 11 being generic.

Serial No.: 10/067,119

Conclusion

It is believed that the above elections are properly responsive to the requirements contained in the Action and that the application is in condition for substantive examination. Should the Examiner detect any issue or have any question which might be resolved via a telephone discussion, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned via telephone at (847) 490-1400, in an effort to expedite examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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